GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4632
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
COMPUTER INFORMATION CENTRES
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL;SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a scheme for setting up computer information centres in each State and Union Territory of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time-frame for its implementation;

(c) the present status thereof and steps taken in pursuance thereof so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a): No, Sir.

(b),(c) and (d): With a view to accelerating the socioeconomic development of the community in hilly areas of difficult geographical terrain having poor infrastructural and communication facilities in the North-East region of the country, a scheme was approved for providing connectivity by setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at all the block headquarters in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim within two years at an estimated cost of Rs.220 crores.

A pilot project was launched in August, 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs.15 crores by setting up 30 CICs in the aforesaid states at sites selected by the State Government. Based on the experience gained therefrom, CICs are to be set up at the remaining 457 block headquarters of these states.

It has been decided to extend the scheme to provide block level connectivity also to the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has similar characteristics and level of development as the North East region.